

The Time for Asr in Detail

Q: Salaah-240: There are two time-tables in our Masjid. One states that the Time for the Asr Jamaa'ah is 4:30pm, while the other states that it is at 4:25pm. It is not clear what the time for the Adhaan is. The Asr Jamaa'ah usually takes place at 4:30pm and Adhaan is usually called out at either 4:15pm or 4:20pm. What is the correct time?

Answer: The time-table stating that salaah is at 4:30pm conforms with the preferred opinion of the Hanafi Madh'hab, which specifies that Asr salaah be performed when the shadows of things are double their actual length together with the length they are at the time when the sun is at its zenith (the original shadow). The time before this is still time for Zuhr.

The original shadow of things during December is almost as long as the object itself. Therefore, when the shadow grows to double this length, the time for Zuhr expires and the Adhaan for Asr must be called out. At present, the time is about 4:30pm and in the interests of caution, it is best to practise accordingly. And Allaah knows best what is most correct.

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